

## Labour seeks repeal of anti-PLO law

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's Labour Party voted overwhelmingly on Tuesday to fight for the repeal of an Israeli law banning contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), but its senior leaders said they still opposed talking peace with the organisation. Labour, Israel's main opposition party and the dominant political force until losing to the Likud bloc in 1977, is setting its platform for the 1992 national elections at a three-day congress that opened Tuesday. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's hardline government drew international criticism when police recommended last week that Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation at the Madrid peace conference, be prosecuted under the anti-PLO law. On Monday, a state attorney recommended that Dr. Ashrawi not stand trial. Israel's attorney-general has yet to give the final determination regarding Dr. Ashrawi. "We as a party stand today ... for the cancellation of this law forbidding meetings with the PLO on the grounds that it is completely undemocratic," said Labour Member of Parliament David Libes, president of the congress. In 1986 Labour had joined Likud in passing the law banning meetings with the PLO. Mr. Shamir's Likud-led coalition government refuses to talk with the PLO.

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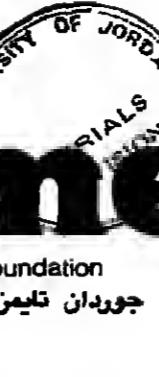
## PLO: Settlement halt before more talks

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Tuesday that Israel should halt the building of settlements in the occupied territories before the next phase of talks between Arabs and the Jewish state. "The question of stopping colonisation is not negotiable and it must be solved before any resumption of talks," PLO spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahman told Reuters at the end of a five-day meeting of the PLO executive committee in Tunis. The peace conference, which began in Madrid at the end of October, should resume later this month, with bilateral negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians, probably in Washington. While the PLO played no direct role in the talks, the Palestinian delegation was taking part with its blessing and support. In a statement issued by the Palestinian news agency WAFA, the PLO said a resumption of talks with Israel was linked to "a halt to colonisation" and the "international protection of Palestinians living in the occupied territories."

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## Cabinet reinstates 53 civil servants

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Tuesday held a meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Taher Masri and decided to reinstate or appoint 53 persons who were either sacked from their government jobs or were not allowed to work with the government for political or security reasons.

## Mubarak to go to Syria soon

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak will visit Damascus in the next few days for talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on the Middle East peace process, the Syrian ambassador to Egypt said Tuesday. "The two presidents will discuss coordinating the position of the two countries in the second stage of peace negotiations," Issa Darwish said in an interview with Egyptian state radio. Egyptian presidency officials, with Mr. Mubarak on a visit to France, were not immediately available for comment.

## Lebanon's chief peace negotiator quits

BEIRUT (R) — The head of the Lebanese negotiating team for the Arab-Israeli peace talks resigned Tuesday, official sources said. A replacement for Zafer Al Hassan, ambassador in charge of political affairs at the Foreign Ministry, would be named soon. The sources said only that Mr. Hassan had quit because "he has other responsibilities at the ministry." Mr. Hassan led Beirut's team at its sole session of bilateral talks with Israel at the Madrid peace conference. Foreign Minister Faris Bunez represented Lebanon in the formal opening stage of the historic talks.

## Lebanese army deploys in U.N.-policed zone

TYRE (AP) — Government troops deployed for the first time in a U.N.-policed village in South Lebanon to halt inter-Shiite battles that killed two people and wounded 12, police said Tuesday. In a separate event, Israeli gunners fired 16 artillery rounds on suspected guerrilla bases in Iqlim Al Tuffah north of Israel's self-styled "security zone" in the south. Police reported no casualties from the midnight (2200 GMT Monday) bombardment. Police said a 120-man Lebanese army unit in three tanks and 18 armoured personnel carriers rolled into the U.N.-policed village of Teir Dibba before sundown Monday to disengage the warring combatants.

## Ireland protests to Israel after Irish soldier shot in Lebanon

DUBLIN (AP) — Ireland protested to Israel Tuesday over the killing of an Irish soldier in South Lebanon. Israeli-backed militia opened fire on a United Nations patrol in South Lebanon Friday, killing Michael McCarthy. Another Irish soldier was wounded. Corporal McCarthy was serving in the 700-member Irish contingent of the U.N. peacekeeping force. Foreign Minister Gerry Collins summoned Israeli Ambassador Yoav Biran and told him, the shooting was an "unwarranted and unprovoked attack" by forces which were "de facto under Israeli control."

## Fighting continues in Mogadishu

NAIROBI (AP) — Fighting continued in sections of the Somalian capital Tuesday, a day after President Ali Mahdi Mohammad reportedly was overtaken by his chief rival, aid sources said. The fighting appeared contained in Mogadishu's northwestern corner where Mr. Ali Mahdi has a home and which traditionally is a stronghold of his Abagal clan, said sources in contact with their representatives in the embattled city. "It would suggest that Ali Mahdi is not as finished as they say he is," one of the sources said. Mr. Ali Mahdi's whereabouts remained unknown.

# Government presents JD 1.27b draft budget

*JD 107m deficit; capital expenditure up by JD 108m; 'sufficient' allocations for expansion of services*

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The outgoing government of Prime Minister Taher Masri Tuesday unveiled a JD 1.27 billion draft budget for the year 1992 with a deficit of JD 107 million — a slab in deficit by half over 1991.

The draft budget, which will be presented to Parliament before the end of this month for debate during the legislative authority's regular session beginning in December, reflects an increase of 10 per cent above the 1991 budget.

The deficit will be covered by external and internal loans.

The JD 107 million deficit before financing represents slightly less than four per cent of the estimated gross domestic product (GDP), but it was not immediately known whether the actual deficit with financing will be compatible with the levels sought by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

A cabinet statement carried by

Jordan Television noted that foreign exchange reserves of the country had gone up dramatically and said industrial production had achieved an increase of 15 per cent during the past three months. Quoting a Central Bank of Jordan bulletin, the statement said the increase in industrial production was the highest ever recorded in Jordan's history.

The main features of the budget are:

— Domestic revenues, including recovered loans, are estimated at JD 882 million — 94.3 per cent of the total current expenditure. The corresponding figure for 1991 was originally estimated at JD 752 million, but the cabinet statement issued Tuesday said this was reassessed and raised to JD 769 million.

External committed grants are estimated at JD 281 million, including JD 105.3 million in grants due in 1991 but expected to be paid in 1992. The estimated external assistance in grants and loans in the 1991 budget was

JD 200 million.

Total current expenditure is estimated at JD 940 million and capital expenditure at JD 338 million — an increase of 6.4 per cent and 46 per cent respectively over the figures for 1991.

— JD 45 million have been allocated for pay increases for civil and security personnel including the Armed Forces, as well as pension bikes for retired servicemen and civil servants.

The cabinet statement indicated that the GDP was expected to be around JD 2.8 billion by saying that the JD 338 million allocation for capital expenditure was around 12 per cent of the GDP.

It said the JD 108 million increase in capital expenditure in 1992 over the corresponding figure for 1991 was devoted to providing and expanding the basic facilities local infrastructure for development.

While no definite details were immediately available, this increase was interpreted as waranted by the return of a quarter

million expatriates and their families from Kuwait and other Gulf states in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

The cabinet statement did not give details of the various allocations, but emphasised that "sufficient" amounts were provided for to increase basic services. It cited as an example a rise of 8.2 per cent in the current expenditure and 29 per cent in capital expenditure for the Health Ministry but did not give figures.

According to the statement, allocations are made to create 6,300 new jobs in government departments and security forces as well as other public institutions. In addition, the allocation for vocational training will be boosted by 10 per cent, the statement said, noting that the vocational training corporation had trained 14,000 people during the year.

The government will also give priority to job-creating projects

(Continued on page 2)

## Freed hostages rejoin families, say remaining captives will be free soon

The Associated Press

PLEDGING NOT to rest until all Middle East captives are released, freed hostage Terry Waite arrived home Tuesday. In Wiesbaden, Germany, fellow former hostage Thomas Sutherland had a long-awaited reunion with his wife and one of his daughters.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar — who has led recent efforts to free the hostages — said Monday he believes all Western captives may be freed by Christmas.

"It is wrong to hold people in such a way," the 52-year-old Waite said Tuesday. "It is defeating and those who do it fall well below civilised standards of behaviour, no matter who they are and no matter what their nationality or what organisation they belong to."

Mr. Waite reached his home — which he called a "typical English day" — rainy. He told reporters and well-wishers at Lyneham air base west of London that after "1,763 days in chains, it's an overwhelming experience to come back and receive your greetings."

Mr. Waite, who went to Lebanon as an envoy for the Church of England, said: "Those from whom I have just come can be assured that we in the church for our part will not rest until all are freed and there is justice and peace brought to people who deserve a better deal."

(Continued on page 2)

Mr. Waite did not refer directly to Israel or any other country. The Jewish state has been the third partner in a broad exchange of Western hostages, hundreds of Lebanese prisoners under Israeli control and Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon. At least one Israeli soldier is believed to be a captive.

There was concern in Israel that it had been left out of the latest hostage developments. Uri Sionim, an Israeli defence ministerial lawyer and hostage negotiator, told Israeli radio Mr. Waite and Mr. Sutherland "were freed without any involvement by us."

Israel Foreign Minister David Levy urged mediators "to act without any discrimination until everyone is released, including our prisoners." And Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said he was "upset and disappointed" by the slow progress in getting information on missing Israeli soldiers.

In Germany, Mr. Sutherland, also said the other American hostages would soon be released.

"In about a couple of weeks, all of the Americans will be freed, hopefully," the 60-year-old

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## Shevardnadze reappointed foreign minister

MOSCOW (R) — Eduard Shevardnadze, who presided for five years over some of the most dramatic changes in recent European history before resigning as Soviet foreign minister last December, was reappointed to the post on Tuesday.

President Mikhail Gorbachev appointed 63-year-old Shevardnadze in a decree published by TASS news agency.

Mr. Shevardnadze resigned from the post in December in a dramatic speech to parliament in which he warned of an approaching dictatorship in the Soviet Union.

Mr. Shevardnadze had been one of Mr. Gorbachev's closest allies, a co-architect of his perestroika policies. But their relations deteriorated in later years. Mr. Shevardnadze charged that Mr. Gorbachev had underestimated the threat from conservative communists.

Prince Bandar left for Washington without talking to reporters, but a Saudi spokesman said the ambassador had been "very pleased" with the "constructive discussion" of issues with the Jewish leaders.

His words, echoed later by other senior officials, appeared prophetic when a hardline communist emergency committee overthrew Mr. Gorbachev for three days in August.

Mr. Shevardnadze has warned since the coup that a second takeover is possible.

Moscow Radio said Mr. Shevardnadze's predecessor, Boris Pankin,

had been appointed ambassador to Britain. He replaces Leonid Zamyatin, a hardliner retired after the coup.

The Sandi spokesman said Prince Bandar's meeting with

(Continued on page 2).

Prince Bandar assured Jewish leaders of Saudi sincerity

NEW YORK (AP) — Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the United States has assured American Jewish leaders that his government considers Israel "an integral part" of the Middle East and is committed to peace between the Jewish state and its Arab neighbours, participants in the meeting said.

Prince Bandar, a son of Saudi Arabia's defence minister and nephew of King Fahd, is known for relatively moderate views on the Middle East conflict.

He has been credited with playing an instrumental role in enlisting Arab support for the U.S.-led Gulf war coalition against Iraq. More recently, he helped organise the historic Madrid peace conference.

Although Prince Bandar has met previously with a few U.S. Jewish leaders, Ms. Cardin called Monday's meeting a "breakthrough" in bringing a senior Saudi official together with a large group of such leaders, about 30 in all.

She said that in an exchange of views, Prince Bandar "expressed his concern for the legitimate rights of the Palestinians and we expressed ours for the security of Israel."

She quoted Prince Bandar as suggesting the Arab economic boycott against Israel might be lifted as a "confidence-building measure."

The Sandi spokesman said Prince Bandar's meeting with

(Continued on page 2).

## Syrian team delays visit

By a Jordan Times Reporter

AMMAN — A scheduled visit by a five-member Syrian delegation for coordination talks with Jordanians and Palestinians has been postponed in view of the government change in Jordan, a senior official said Tuesday.

The delegation, which was due to arrive Tuesday for the trilateral consultations ahead of the next round of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks, is expected to come early next week, the official said.

"The Syrian delegation delayed its visit until the new government takes over," said the official. "The delegation will meet Jordanian officials as well as delegation members so it makes sense to wait until the new cabinet members are announced."

Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, who is taking over following the resignation of Prime Minister Taher Masri, is expected to announce his cabinet by Thursday.

Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said Monday the Syrian delegation, headed by Zakaria Ismail, would meet with Jordanian and Palestinian delegations to discuss peace negotiations to discuss strategies and set priorities ahead of bilateral talks. Dr. Abu Jaber also said Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharra would visit Amman within the next several days, but no specific date has yet been set.

The Jordanian delegation, which was restructured Sunday, met Tuesday evening as part of ongoing preparations for the bilateral talks.

Abdul Shafii arrives

Haidar Abdul Shafii, head of the Palestinian team in the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace conference, arrived in Amman Tuesday to attend coordination and consultation meetings between the two teams of the joint delegation.

Dr. Abdul Shafii said in an interview with Jordan Television that he would meet with members of the Palestinian and the Jordanian teams to prepare for the next phase of the peace process.

He stressed the importance of consultations at this stage and affirmed that the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination was proceeding very well.

Mondays' Israeli storming of the Sharia (Islamic) court in Jerusalem to seize important historic documents, Dr. Abdul Shafii said, was a very bad gesture on the part of the Israelis and he could find no justification for such behaviour.

"This conforms with the Israeli practices which we have known over the years of occupation."

No charge against Ashrawi

Israel Television said late Monday that Israel's state attorney had decided not to prosecute a top Palestinian negotiator for alleged meetings with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials.

Dorit Beilich made the decision after examining a police file



WIHDAT BEATS GUARDS: His Majesty King Hussein's birthday match between the Royal Guards team and Al WIhdat Club held on the occasion of His Majesty's birthday. The match was also attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor, several members of the royal family, Prime Minister Taher Masri, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the Armed Forces chief of staff, the King's military secretary and other high-ranking officials along with more than 20,000 soccer fans. Al WIhdat beat the Royal Guards 2-1. The Royal Guards goal was scored by Musa Awad, while Al WIhdat goals were scored by Ibrahim Sandi and Jaled Abdin Man'een. Al WIhdat currently tops the list of the Jordan Soccer Federation League Championship (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

## Sharif Zeid entering final stage of preparations towards government

He is to be officially designated following submission of Masri's resignation to King today

By Nermene Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister-designate Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has covered enough grounds in his consultations with the leaders of parliamentary blocs and political groups in the country and is entering the stage of putting final touches on his government, which should be announced either today or tomorrow.

According to well-informed sources, Sharif Zeid has had sufficient consultations with the parliamentary blocs to have clear ideas of his government's composition, in terms of parliamentary participation and technocrats from outside the Lower House.

The task of Sharif Zeid now is to translate these ideas into

(Continued on page 2)

## Jordan, PLO deplore Israeli raid on Jerusalem Sharia court

# Middle East News

## Islamic countries urge

### Restraint in Pan Am affair

JEDDAH (Agencies) — The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) urged restraint Tuesday in the Lockerbie affair and said that Libya, a member state, was remain committed to fight terrorism.

A statement issued at the headquarters of the 45-member OIC called "for restraint and for an acceptable but methodical search for the truth of facts."

The organisation said it received an official communication from the Libyan government expressing readiness to cooperate in the framework of an international mutual enquiry commission.

The statement also said the OIC received assurances from Libya that it would remain committed to fight terrorism, particularly attacks against the safety of civil aviation.

"The OIC has adopted several resolutions committing members to coordinate efforts with the nations of the world to fight against terrorism and Libya remains attached to the respect of these commitments," the statement said.

The OIC emphasised that Islam is against unjustified violence and said the world still remembers the horror of the explosion over Lockerbie.

American and Scottish legal authorities have issued arrest warrants for two men identified as Libyan intelligence agents allegedly involved in the bombing of the Boeing 747 over Lockerbie, Scotland on Dec. 21, 1988, in which 270 people were killed.

The United States has been considering retaliatory action against Libya in consultations with world powers. Military force has not been ruled out.

Syrian Prime Minister Edward Fenech Adami has again denied that the bomb-rigged suitcase that blew up Flight 103 originated in Malta.

Each Adami told parliament Monday that evidence showed all the luggage on an Air Malta flight to Frankfurt was accounted for and that there had been no unaccompanied luggage.

U.S. and Scottish authorities contend that the two Libyans routed the bomb-rigged suitcase from Malta to Frankfurt, where it was transferred to the Pan Am flight.

The two agents, Abdul Basset Ali Al Megrahi and Lamen Khalfia Phihah, have been charged in the United States and Scotland with blowing up the jetliner and killing 270 people. Mr. Phihah was the manager of the Libyan Arab Airlines office in Malta at the time.

French Adami told parliament that U.S. and Scottish allegations that the bomb was moved through Malta were specious. He said Malta had

cooperated with investigators, seen the details of the investigation and had rebutted the allegations.

Libya said meanwhile it had been made a "scapegoat" in a deal to free Western hostages.

Commenting on Monday's release of Church of England envoy Terry Waite and American Thomas Sutherland, four days after the U.S. and Britain said there was no evidence of Iranian or Syrian involvement, Libya's state-run television said Monday night:

"The situation begs the following question: Why is Libya being accused, falsely, slanderously, and at this time in particular of being behind the accident of the downing of the U.S. plane?"

"The aim behind these unjust accusations has now become clear. Libya was meant to be the scapegoat in the deal to release Western hostages," Libyan Television said.

Libya Monday named a judge to investigate a British request for the extradition of the two alleged Libyan agents.

... Libya, which is innocent of terrorism, accepts the role of scapegoat in this operation as long as it leads to the release of innocent people and clears the name of parties who are dear to us," the television said.

It said Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam told Libyan ambassador during a meeting in Damascus on Monday:

"The campaign launched against the Great Jamahiriya (Libya) is a campaign against Syria and against all pure people of the Arab Nation."

Mr. Khaddam "emphasised Syria's readiness to supply whatever is asked of it to stand by the side of the Arab Libyan people," it said.

Two British parliamentarians have cancelled a trip to Libya after learning that Tripoli had set up a judicial inquiry to investigate the Pan Am charges.

In a joint statement, opposition Labour MPs Tam Dalyell and Bernie Grant said: "We feel that our representations by telephone over the weekend have been taken into account and that the Libyan response is entirely reasonable in the circumstances."

Italy and Egypt said Monday that any sanctions against Libya over the bombing should be legal and peaceful.

"We must act through legal channels and without using force," Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti was quoted as agreeing with visiting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

President George Bush is expected to call on Western leaders this week to coordinate a joint response.

## Egypt on track with \$2b U.S. tank project

CAIRO (R) — Egypt, ambitious to become a defence manufacturing base for the Arab World, is on track with a \$2 billion project to produce U.S. M-1A1 tanks, similar to those which led the allies to victory in the Gulf war.

Military sources told Reuters that Plant 200, the factory outside Cairo designed to assemble Abrams M-1A1s and refurbish Egypt's existing M-60 tanks and M-113 armoured vehicles, would open officially in January.

The first locally-assembled General Dynamics tank would leave the factory in July, probably coinciding with celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the 23rd of July revolution which overthrew the monarchy.

Egypt is eager to earn big profits for its ailing economy by exporting M-1A1s to Arab oil states in the Gulf. Washington will not allow this at present by military sources said Egyptian Defence Minister Mohammad Hussein Tantawi was optimistic it would do so in future.

Two years ago, Egypt was considering scrapping the entire M-1A1 project as part of a far-reaching review of its defence spending.

Military sources said at the time that Egypt needed to commit \$200 million in 1990-91 in order to qualify for continued U.S. military aid for the project, which was also six months behind schedule.

Cairo decided instead to co-produce Soviet-designed T-72 tanks with Iraq.

**EC grants occupied territories aid to offset Gulf war losses**

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Commission said on Tuesday it was granting \$61 million of aid to Palestinians in the occupied territories to help alleviate economic hardship caused by the Gulf crisis and war.

The 48-million-ECU (\$61 million) grant is the first allocation from a special 220-million-ECU (\$280 million) package of assistance to Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip decided by the European Community in March.

About 29 million ECUs (\$37 million) has been earmarked for much-needed housing, stimulating the construction industry and creating work for Palestinians who lost their jobs in Israel and the Gulf following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Most of the rest will be spent on agriculture, industry and services.

"The EC package should have a powerful impact on unemployment, on improving the economy, on helping local services

But Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last year put paid to that. Egypt, the United States' main ally in the Arab World, joined a U.S.-led coalition against Iraq. In return, the United States wrote off \$6.8 billion of Egypt's military debt.

The M-1A1 tank project at one point was in financial difficulty, but Egypt is now on course with the project and it hopes to be able to sell the tanks to Gulf Arab states soon," one military source said.

The General Dynamics contract with Egypt, the first export sale of the M-1A1, is a prestigious symbol of the close military ties that have developed between Cairo and Washington over the past decade.

Under the terms of an agreement with General Dynamics, Egypt will get 555 M-1A1 tanks over a 10-year period but is barred from selling them to any third party without U.S. approval.

It has already received 15 tanks produced in the United States. The remainder will come in the form of kits to be assembled in Egypt.

The sources said Egypt locally produces about 30 per cent of the tanks and is expected to receive 52 kits during the first 18 months of production. A total of 250 kits will be sent over five years.

Egyptian Defence Minister Mohammad Hussein Tantawi, the sources said, extended his stay in Washington this month from four days to two weeks to urge the U.S. to allow Egypt to sell the tanks in about two years.

**Polisario accuses U.N. of leaking documents to Morocco**

responsible for housing, on education and health," the commission, the EC's executive, said in a statement.

The grant announced on Tuesday is almost five times larger than the 10 million ECUs (\$12.7 million) in direct aid granted out of EC coffers last year.

The occupied territories were hit hard by the Gulf crisis. Much of the cash sent home by Palestinians working in the Gulf dried up as they fled, and aid from other Arab states fell sharply.

In total the West Bank and Gaza will receive 60 million ECUs (\$76 million) in EC aid. A commission spokesman said much of the remaining tranche, yet to be finalised, would probably be earmarked for spending on health.

He added the commission would soon announce its first payment to Israel under the special package. Israel will get a total of 160 million ECUs (\$203 million) in loans at preferential rates.

The sources said "no computer diskettes or any related

material was passed on by any high level official, directly or indirectly, to any of the parties or any person in Morocco or elsewhere."

The Western Sahara peacekeeping mission is the U.N.'s biggest nation-building effort since the Nazareth operation; about 2,700 peacekeepers, police and election monitors are to supervise the referendum at a cost of about \$150 million.

An advance team of about 250 U.N. monitors is already working in Western Sahara to pave the way for the operation.

By the time the referendum is held, the world body will be about to gear up for an even larger, more ambitious pacification effort in Cambodia in 1992.

Polisario guerrillas have been fighting Morocco for control of the largely desert region. Morocco annexed over 182,000 square kilometres of the land in 1976.

But the office of the special representative on Western Sahara Monday denied "in the most categoric and unambiguous manner" the Polisario allegations.

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## U.N. envoy in Iraq, which fears becoming U.N. colony

(Continued from page 1)

sources said that he might need an extra day to reach a final decision on the make-up of his government.

The sources said that the 16-member National Bloc, the 18-member Constitution Bloc and the six-member independent Islamist Bloc have all given Sharif Zeid their blessing and support and left for him the task of deciding on how to form his government and how to divide the cabinet seats among parliamentarians and technocrats.

The nine-member Democratic Bloc, a representative of whom is Sharif Zeid, had said that the bloc would take final decision on their position towards the new government based on its final make-up and policy statements.

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, executive delegate of the United Nations secretary-general, will also seek to extend the mandate of U.N. agencies tending the human aftermath of the Gulf war and subsequent rebellions by Kurds and Shiite Muslims.

Asked on arrival if he was optimistic that an accord would emerge from his talks, Prince Sadruddin told reporters: "I certainly hope so, you have to be an optimist in my job."

He declined further comment.

Iraqi officials said they would make clear to Prince Sadruddin their anger at the continuation of U.N. sanctions imposed 15 months ago which they say are killing thousands of old, young and weak Iraqis because of shortages of drugs and food.

They will also voice their anger at U.N. Resolution 706, which was approved in August and would allow Iraq to sell limited quantities of oil to finance imports of food and drugs.

The Iraqi government feels it has been let down by the United Nations, its only real link with the Western powers which expelled its occupation army from Kuwait in February, senior U.N. sources say.

The Baghdad authorities believed that compliance with the Gulf war ceasefire resolutions in April would speed the end of the sanctions but now fear that Resolution 706 will replace them and leave the country in an even tighter U.N. grip.

They maintain they are giving full cooperation to U.N. border monitors and to inspectors dismantling its nuclear, chemical and ballistic arms and this should warrant the lifting of the embargo.

Specifically, they object to the fact that 706 would ensnare revenue from its abundant oil in an escrow account and make imports subject to a complex system of U.N. checking at both the point of supply and inside Iraq.

"They think we will cheat with the money, but the money isn't even enough to buy the food we need," Oil Minister Usama Al Hiti told Reuters in a recent interview.

Western estimates put the Iraqi government's monthly food bill at \$100 million but this only covers subsidised basic essentials. The rest Iraqis have to buy on a runaway free market.

The resolution would allow Iraq to sell \$1.6 billion of crude but Western estimates say that Baghdad would get only \$900 million after deductions for war reparations, U.N. administrative costs and other charges.

Iraq is also angry at the need for U.N. relief agencies such as the children's body UNICEF whose work, they feel, masks suffering caused by the United Nations itself.

The official Iraqi media have stepped into overdrive in recent days to denounce sanctions. Resolution 706 and what it sees as a plot hatched by the United States, Britain and France to weaken President Saddam's authority.

The Defence Ministry daily Al Quds said Monday that Iraq was a victim of "the most disgusting plot in the history of the world" and blamed Washington, London and Paris for it.

The 1991 budget had a similar provision for JD 1.20 million.

The cabinet statement said the government would continue subsidising basic foodstuffs but did not provide any figure. According to informed sources, an allocation of JD 40 million has been made for subsidies in the budget, reflecting a reduction of over JD 20 million for subsidies during 1991.

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The reduction in subsidy allocation was interpreted as a government move to reorganise the subsidy system, particularly involving bread and wheat, by early 1992. One of the ideas floated by senior officials is the introduction of bread coupons for Jordanian citizens, excluding commercial organisations, non-Jordanian residents and visitors.

The documents are considered as historic treasures dating back to more than 500 years ago, said Sheikh Sayeh. He called Palestine President Yasser Arafat urging him to hold contacts with the U.N. Security Council to call for an emergency session to discuss the "new Israeli crime in Jerusalem."

Sheikh Sayeh said that he called on the United States and the Soviet Union to impose penalties on Israel for "committing this crime and to halt the Soviet-Jewish immigration immediately and to stop all American assistance to the Jewish state."

By this crime Israel wants to prove to the world its obstinacy and determination to hold on to its occupation of Arab Jerusalem and that it wants to tamper with the Holy City's character and obliterate its Arab and Islamic image, said Sheikh Sayeh.

By stealing the documents, the Israelis are determined to remove the evidence of the Palestine and Muslim people's right to the holy places, he said.

Sheikh Sayeh said that the "Israeli crime should not be condoned by anybody and the Arabs and Muslims will not give up their rights and can never condone such acts."

## Jerusalem commission calls on Israel to return stolen documents

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Commission for Jerusalem Affairs Tuesday issued an appeal to the Arab and Islamic worlds to help put an end to Israel's flagrant defiance of Arab and Islamic feelings and to return historic documents which Israeli troops had stolen from the Islamic court in Jerusalem Monday.

Israeli troops stormed the court and its adjacent offices in the holy city, stealing away important documents, some of which date back to more than 500 years.

His Majesty King Hussein Monday evening called King Hassan II of Morocco to discuss the situation. King Hassan is the chairman of the Jerusalem Commission.

The documents stolen by the Israeli troops contain conclusive evidence pertaining to the history of the holy city and the rights of Muslims, said the commission in its appeal.

The commission urged the United States, which is co-sponsoring the peace process, to shoulder its responsibility in deterring the Israeli occupation authorities from repeating such acts and to return the documents to the Islamic Court.

This "atrocious" act is a clear sign that the Israeli authorities disregard international principles and United Nations resolutions as well as the Geneva Conventions, said the statement. The storming of the Islamic Court Monday

afternoon exposes the truth about the Israeli government, which is opposed to the peace process, it added.

The commission is determined to follow up the matter and take the appropriate measures at all levels to ensure the return of the documents stolen from the court, the statement said. According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, copies of the stolen documents dating as far back as 1536 AD are found at the University of Jordan in Amman.

Jordan officially condemned Israel's act Monday evening and urged the U.S. government and other parties involved in the Middle East peace process to put an end to such acts.

This crime reaffirms that Israel is continuing its pursuit of aggressive policies in flagrant violation of all values and principles and in a manner that would offend the feelings of millions of Arabs and Muslims, said Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber.

As soon as the reports came in, the Jordanian government contacted the United States and other parties to inform them of the serious breach of international law, said Dr. Abu Jaber in a statement to Petra. He said that Jordan would follow up the matter with other Arab and foreign countries to prevent a recurrence of such acts and ensure the return of the stolen documents to the Islamic Court.

## CAEU expresses concern over accusations against Libya

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Tuesday voiced its concern over Western accusations leveled against Libya, saying they pose a threat to the economic and developmental achievements of Libya.

The CEAU Secretary General, Hassan Ibrahim, said such accusations do not only pose threat to Libya's achievements, but also endanger the security and stability of the region and place obstacle in the face of the genuine efforts being made by the international community to start a new era dominated by peace and justice.

In a statement to the Jordan

News Agency, Petra, Mr. Ibrahim said the escalation of the situation does not serve the purposes of all international parties. He pointed out that Libya has voiced its readiness to present the whole issue to international legal tribunals for investigation.

He stressed the importance of collective Arab work in safeguarding Libya's achievements.

Libya has been accused of taking part in the bombing of a Pan Am plane in 1988, which it has denied. Libya's Foreign Ministry has received a British request through the Italian ambassador to Libya to extradite two Libyans charged with the bombing of the plane.

**Jordanian products show cased to foreign officials at fair**

KARAK (J.T.) — A six-day industrial fair held here as part of the Kingdom's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's 56th birthday ended Tuesday.

A total of 75 Jordanian companies and industrial firms displayed samples of their products, ranging from canned food to plastic products. According to sources at the Amman Chamber of Industry, which organised the fair, a large number of Jordanians and foreigners living in Amman and other areas visited the fair.

Among the non-Jordanians visiting the fair where ambassadors or senior members of staff of foreign embassies in Amman invited by the Chamber of Industry to inspect the various products on display.

Interviewed by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, many people of the southern regions of Jordan voiced their support for such fairs being held in their areas to orient the public on Jordan's national products.

The fair was organised within the campus of Muta University near, Karak, which strives to serve the local community.

As well as samples of manufactured products by the 75 firms, the fair displayed samples of handicrafts by charitable and voluntary organisations in the southern governorates of Jordan.

Chamber of Industry President Khalid Abn Hassan was quoted as saying that Jordan's industry accounts for 22 per cent of the gross national product

(GNP) and 92 per cent of Jordan's overall exports. He said Jordan's industry absorbs some 80,000 of the country's workers and the nation's manufactured products are being exported to 68 Arab and foreign countries.

The recent development of Jordanian industries, he said in a statement to the local press, has helped to reduce Jordan's dependence of different products on foreign imports and saved the country a great deal of hard currency that would otherwise have been spent on imported products.

Despite the setbacks caused by the Gulf crisis and the continued blockade on Aqaba port by allied ships, Jordanian industry has managed to surge ahead and achieve a high level of quality products, he said.

Mr. Abu Hassan said that the chamber had invited the heads of foreign missions and commercial attaches to visit the fair in Karak to orient themselves on the Jordanian industry and to bolster the Kingdom's commercial ties with their countries.

The commercial attaché at the Bulgarian embassy here was quoted as saying that the visit offered him an opportunity to acquaint himself with the types of goods produced in Jordan.

Chambers of commerce and industry in the south cooperated with the Chamber of Industry in organising the fair, the first of its kind to be held in the south.

## Home News in Brief

### Medals awarded to Germans

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday conferred upon Genscher Roman, head of the German Interior Ministry delegation currently visiting the Kingdom, Jordan's Independence Medal of the Second Order. The King also conferred medals of the Third Order on two other members of the delegation. Public Security Department Director Maj. General Fadel Ali Fuheid, who received the delegation in his office Tuesday, awarded the medals to them.

### Conference to be held March 11

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ninth Scientific Conference of the Arab Accountants and Auditors Association will be held in Amman on March 11, according to a decision taken by the association's secretariat. At the conclusion of the secretariat's and the association's general assembly meetings, they decided to amend the association's statute to allow for more flexibility in convening the meetings. They also decided to send cables to international organisations calling for lifting the sanctions imposed on the Iraqi people and children.



Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath attend ceremonies Tuesday in initiating second expansion phase of project to teach mentally retarded work skills (Petra photo)

## Second expansion phase of YMWA workshop initiated

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath opened at the Sahab Industrial City Tuesday the second expansion phase of the "Sheltered Workshop," which is operated by the Young Muslim Women's Association (YMWA).

The expansion project was financed through a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and supplied with a dust collecting system as a gift from the government of Japan.

The Prince and Princess toured parts of the workshop and inspected the wood works and the displayed pieces of furniture like cupboards, chairs and tables as well as domestic appliances made by the workshop. They also toured the assembly and packaging units.

At the outset of the ceremony,

the president of the YMWA administrative board, Khawlah Abu Odeh, reviewed the association's role and objectives.

The association, with backing from Princess Sarvath, the YMWA president, established the sheltered workshop in 1987, Mrs. Abu Odeh said.

The sheltered workshop, which allows the mentally retarded to build furniture for the local market, now offers training to 25 students, Mrs. Abu Odeh said. The workshop allows for the children to be productive and to contribute to society's progress, she said.

The second stage, opened Tuesday, aims to create a better and more practical atmosphere for trainees and to give them an opportunity for employment later.

So far, the workshop has turned out 46 trainees with skills in woodwork, 32 of whom are employed within the workshop and 14 in factories in the Sahab Industrial City.

Princess Sarvath said in a statement that she was proud to be president of the YMWA, whose role is to promote Jordanian society. The sheltered workshop aims to offer a service for the mentally retarded trainees and enable them to become useful citizens.

Since the establishment of the workshop, the government of Japan has extended cooperation to its activities. Four Japanese experts carried out teaching and advice tasks on wood and metal works.

Three Jordanian staff members of the workshop have been invited to Japan for training courses and equipment worth \$850,000 has been donated such as a forklift, two trucks, panel saw, edge binder maebo, boring machines, air rackets and other equipment.

Among those present at the opening ceremony were several cabinet members, parliament deputies, Japan's ambassador to Jordan, Tadayuki Nonoyama and other invited guests.

## Ministry of Tourism instituting Visa card system in country

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Tourism is undertaking arrangements by which European tourists visiting Jordan can make payments for their stay or souvenirs and services they might purchase here through the international Visa card system.

The announcement was made by Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabariti, who said that a local firm has agreed to prepare the arrangements in cooperation with a consortium of Jordanian banks.

The agreement to initiate the system follows a series of contacts the Ministry of Tourism has been conducting with concerned parties here and abroad, said the minister in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra. He said that some sort of system enabling tourists to pay through the Visa card should be created in view of the increasing number of tourist groups visiting Jordan these days, most of whom are Europeans.

The minister expressed hope

with the arrival in Aqaba of two weekly flights from northern Europe. The European tourists, mostly from the Scandinavian countries, stay for at least one week in Aqaba, visiting the southern regions and archaeological sites of Jordan.

The introduction of the Visa card for tourists in Jordan coincides with a Ministry of Tourism campaign to market Jordan abroad, especially in European countries.

Mr. Kabariti expressed hope that the use of the Visa card by tourists would ease matters for both tourists and also local merchants. He said there had been complaints recently over the fact that local merchants did not accept the Visa cards from tourists who wanted to pay for services or purchases.

Ministry of Tourism officials said this month that revenues from tourism reached JD 340 million in 1990 and they expected a further increase of the tourism industry this season.

Arrangements for the use of the Visa card by tourists in Jordan would be finalised by the end of this month so the system can be adopted early in December.

The tourism industry has witnessed an upsurge in activity lately in the winter season started

line up a place in Hannover, the project applied last year for a display area. Mrs. Habash hopes this will be the first year of a continuing presence for Bani Hamida.

"We want to make this a yearly event," she said.

Faced with the prospects of being a small fish in a big pond, Mrs. Habash says the team going to Hannover takes with it some very limited goals.

"We are really trying to establish credibility with the exporters," Mrs. Habash said.

The exporters are the crucial link for getting a product, such as Bani Hamida rugs, into the markets in Europe and the West.

By targeting the exporters, Mrs. Habash said the Bani Hamida project is trying to cut out the middle man in getting the product to a wider market base. Middle men in this industry, she said, can increase the final purchasing price by as much as 600 per cent, making the rugs much harder to sell in Europe and the West.

Still, the Bani Hamida project received a boost last month following its very successful exhibition in Helsinki. After receiving encouragement for a number of years from those in the retail rug trade to

signs for display. The rest will be rolled up for those interested in a closer look.

Mrs. Habash said the designs will be some of their more traditional ones. "We will be taking more natural looking rugs with less colour. The people at this show are very environment-conscious," she said.

The Bani Hamida project, started in 1985, has grown from a dozen women to encompass 730 workers from 12 villages among the Bani Hamida, living about 75 kilometres south of Madaba near the Dead Sea. The project is completely self-sufficient and has earned about JD 200,000 for these women. Many of them said that they rely on the work to care for their families.

"There was no work for me before the project, but now I have work and I'm learning to be a seamstress," says Yisra from the village of Balata.

Other women in the village of Namiya express similar feelings. "I have a daughter going to school now in Salt. I need to pay her school fees," said one. Another added, "My husband has work, but it pays very little."

## Women of Bani Hamida to reach new level of international exposure

By Kirk Albrecht  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — It seems unthinkable, but the once-cottage industry of Bani Hamida is about to reach into the international floor covering world in a big way. The Save The Children project will be present for the first time in the prestigious Domotex Hannover floor covering show in Germany during the first week of January.

"This is the biggest trade show in the world for the floor covering industry," says Ghada Habash, project director. "Over 40,000 buyers will be there."

The jump into international waters will take on modest proportions at first. "We have a display area of only 24 square metres, right next to displays which are 15 to 20 times the size of ours," Mrs. Habash explained. "And there are four whole buildings designated just for handmade products like ours."

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signs for display. The rest will be rolled up for those interested in a closer look.

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## Husseini says Palestinians not relinquishing rights to whole of Palestine

AMMAN (Petra) — Palestinian compromises during the current Middle East peace process does not mean Palestinians are relinquishing their historical rights to the whole of Palestine, the chairman of the Palestinian Steering Committee said Tuesday.

Faisal Husseini said the Palestinians' search for a political solution to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip does not mean they are prepared to relinquish their rights to historical Palestine.

Mr. Husseini also said peace efforts are endangered because of extremist movements in the occupied Arab territories. Mr. Husseini, who was speaking during an open dialogue at the World Affairs Council, said the Palestinian delegation was prepared to coordinate with all Arab parties attending the peace talks with Israel, provided that no political stands are imposed by any Arab



Faisal Husseini

party.

He praised Iraq's call for linking the settlement of the Golan Heights to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace talks and a number of government officials.

of international legitimacy. Mr. Husseini said that the international conditions had prompted the Palestine Liberation Organisation to agree to the American initiative to solve the Palestine question. He stressed that the United States is seeking a solution to the Palestine question in accordance with its own policy, but not in accordance with international legitimacy. The United States is interested in achieving stability in the region without any consideration for the party who is going to pay the price for such stability, he said.

However, Mr. Husseini said, America was seeking a peaceful solution to the Palestine question.

Also attending the dialogue were Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, the head of the Jordanian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace talks and a number of government officials.

## Princess Basma Chairs meeting

TAFILEH (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday chaired a meeting for the Tafileh Social Services Centre's local council.

The meeting reviewed the programmes and activities of the centre, especially the services it provides to women and children in the Tafileh Governorate.

Princess Basma called for activating public participation in the centre's programmes and expanding the range of the centre's services to include the surrounding areas. She also called for enhancing cooperation and coordination between the government's public and private institutions.

Princess Basma, chairperson of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF), board of trustees; outlined the QAF's plans, which aim to expand social services, providing useful programmes and activities which would serve the various social sectors as well as extending aid to voluntary bodies all over the governorate.

Tafileh Governor Khalid Al Bawali, who is chairman of the local council, lauded cooperation between the council members which reflected positively on the activities of the centre. Director of the Centre Mahmoud Mahasneh, who was also present at the meeting, reviewed the activities and the programmes of the centre.

The meeting decided to form a joint committee comprising representatives of the local council and the concerned government departments. The committee will be entrusted with conducting surveys on areas needing social services.

Princess Basma toured the various departments of the centre and visited its kindergartens, children's clubs and workshops.

## WHAT'S GO

## Jordan Times

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## Peace with promise

THE THIRD-stage multilateral talks on the Middle East are drawing more than two dozen countries from the industrial world which are capable of funding any regional project that the parties to the ongoing peace conference can come up with and agree on. There is already talk about earmarking a multi-billion dollar amount for this purpose — something that neither Israel nor the Arab side can ignore or brush aside. By so doing, the basically Western countries from North America and the EC countries as well as Japan which are footing the bill are essentially raising the stakes for peace in the Middle East and serving notice on all the countries of the area that they have a lot to lose if they let the opportunity slip away.

Reports from the capitals involved in this "Marshall Plan" also confirm that the financing of regional projects, be they related to environment or water or energy, will take place only after meaningful progress has been registered in the second-stage bilateral negotiations between the Arabs and Israel. In other words, implementation of such ambitious projects will be organically linked with the attainment of at least interim peace accords. This way, the multilateral negotiations and their conclusions are intended to serve as a potent incentive for the bilateral talks. This approach to the projected multilateral sets of negotiations is an interesting one, especially since it outlines a new perspective on how to proceed with the anticipated second and third stages of talks between the Arab states and Israel. This may mean that the multilateral negotiations must be initiated concurrently with the bilateral ones in order to have the occasion for influencing them and lending support to their successful conclusions.

There is already talk about highlighting the regional water issue as well as the construction of a modern transportation systems linking the Middle East countries ever more closely by a network of railroads and highways. The water problem is being addressed on the basis of establishing a mega-sized desalination plant serving a multitude of states in the region. Such a water facility would complement any fair distribution of available water in the area including water from Turkish sources. This way, the long range solution of the water crisis would stand a good chance of being resolved.

This is only a sample of how the peoples of the region can profit from conditions of peace. The fact that so many rich countries are willing to pitch in and help the states of the area cope with their economic problems on a scale hitherto unknown in the past augurs well for the prospects of peace in the region as well as for its peoples. When peace with honour is linked with prosperity and progress, the sky is the limit as to where the peoples of this part of the world can go to attain comprehensive development and progress. In this sense, the would-be participating countries in the multilateral talks from outside the region would take great credit for giving peace in the Middle East a real chance.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IN DOWNING of an American plane over Scotland three years ago is considered a terrorist act but Washington, London and Paris have no right to accuse Libya of perpetrating it, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. It said that the Western countries have not come up with any evidence proving that the Libyan intelligence service had committed the act, but the world community has been witnessing threats directed against the Libyan people similar to those directed against Iraq prior to the aggression launched against it. The paper said that Jordan does not condone any terrorist acts, but on the contrary it demands that the perpetrators be severely punished. The downing of the American plane is no less evil and atrocious than burying the Iraqi troops alive and the continued starving of the civilian population of Iraq, said the paper. It said that those responsible for the massacre of thousands of Iraqi civilians should be punished and those who are starving the innocent children of Iraq should be put on trial and receive the same severe punishment like those who had perpetrated the downing of the American plane, an act that took the lives of the innocent passengers. The paper said that not only those responsible for the downing of the American plane should be put on trial, but also those who shot down the Libyan and Iranian aircraft, those who are starving the innocent civilians of the Arab World and those who are exercising acts of piracy on other countries.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily focused attention on a report published in the Western press about the American troops using nuclear and radioactive materials in their aggression against Iraq. Tareq Masa'weh, said that the report, quoted informed American sources as saying that the U.S. fired 5,000 radioactive projectiles on Iraqi positions, killing and injuring hundreds of thousands of Iraqi military and civilian people. According to the report, the radioactive materials, which are still affecting the Gulf region, are now endangering the lives of at least half a million civilians, the writer said. The new world order and the United Nations are allowing the United States to use nuclear weapons to attack Iraq and to continue a blockade to starve its people at a time when Arab countries are still siding with the United States in its aggression in an Arab country, said the writer. The United States is allowed to maintain a blockade on the Aqaba gulf to starve the Jordanian people by turning away food-laden cargo vessels bound for Aqaba while the Arabs are applauding the United States' actions and supporting its claim that it is seriously concerned about settling the Palestine question, said the writer. Masa'weh asked how the Arabs could believe in Washington's actions while they continue to witness its atrocities committed against the Arab Nation.

## Economic Forum

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

# Consumption tax revisited

The new tax imposed on industrial domestic products two weeks ago was wrongly called a consumption tax. Call it a value added or excise tax, but it has technically nothing to do with consumption taxes. The latter are paid by the final consumer (buyer) irrespective of the origin of the goods (or services) concerned, whether they are manufactured domestically or imported. Consumer or sales taxes should also be paid directly by the consumer when he buys the goods and not by the manufacturer.

The new tax does not also fit within the framework of the proposal made in this column (Nov. 13, 1991) which called for adopting a modern tax system compatible with the spirit of supply-side economics, which based on imposing taxes on the circulation of income (or revenue) rather than on the generation of income. The new tax is levied on the producer who might or might not be able to pass all or part of it to the buyer. A real consumption tax is paid by this buyer who pays it willingly because he is the one who makes the decision to buy. If he resents the tax or its rate, the consumer will either refrain from buying the product in question or buy less of it. This is economising in the real national sense of the word.

Cutting consumption is not a virtue or a recipe for economic success. Satisfying more human needs through more consumption is the ultimate, and noble, goal of economic activity. The higher

the consumption, the higher is the national income. The productive reduction in consumption is the one made for the purpose of leaving more for savings. Since savings are used to finance investment, the virtuous form of cutting consumption is the one, and only one, which serves as a mechanism of transferring funds to savings and, through them, to investment.

But look at our present so-called consumption tax. It will lead to transferring money from the pockets of the private sector to those of the government, which will use the proceeds to finance its current expenditures namely, to finance consumption. Thus, this tax serves to switch funds from consumption by the private sector to consumption by the government and, therefore, loses its purported virtue.

And there is more to that. Even if the government does not spend the totality of the proceeds of the new tax on consumption, the "saved" part will be less than the corresponding part which would have been saved by the private sector had the new tax not been there. The reason is very simple — the marginal propensity to save (MPS) of the private sector is higher (actually very much higher in Jordan) than that of the public sector. In simpler terms, the private sector saves more than the government does.

But, of course, Jordan has a budget deficit which the wise men of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and their Jordanian

counterparts deem as intolerable and must be reduced until it is finally closed a few years from now. Very well. The IMF prescribes a set of standard "adjustment" measures for all developing countries which run into trouble and seek its advice. This is wrong because the circumstances of these countries are not identical and, therefore, one or more of these measures must be tailored to the particular needs and circumstances of this or that country.

In the specific case of Jordan, taxpayers are already overtaxed. The tax effort in Jordan is high and it is even much higher if this effort is measured by the yardsticks used by the IMF itself. To prescribe tax increases such as the "consumption" tax to remedy the budget deficit when the tax effort is already high was a double mistake. It should not have been prescribed by the IMF in the first place and should not have been accepted by Jordanian policy makers in the second place. This measure (tax hike) was applied to the wrong case and has naturally produced an uproar. More doses of the same medicine will trigger similar results, instantly or later.

There is no denying that our economy needs adjustment, but the question is by which means. This column is not, at least space wise, the right place to elaborate on the answer to this question.

## At a historical crossroads, again

By Gad Ya'acobi

WE were recently informed by the Central Bureau of Statistics that the number of Jews in Israel today is 4.1 million. With the convening of a Middle East regional conference, the main decision regarding the country's future character has once again come into sharp relief.

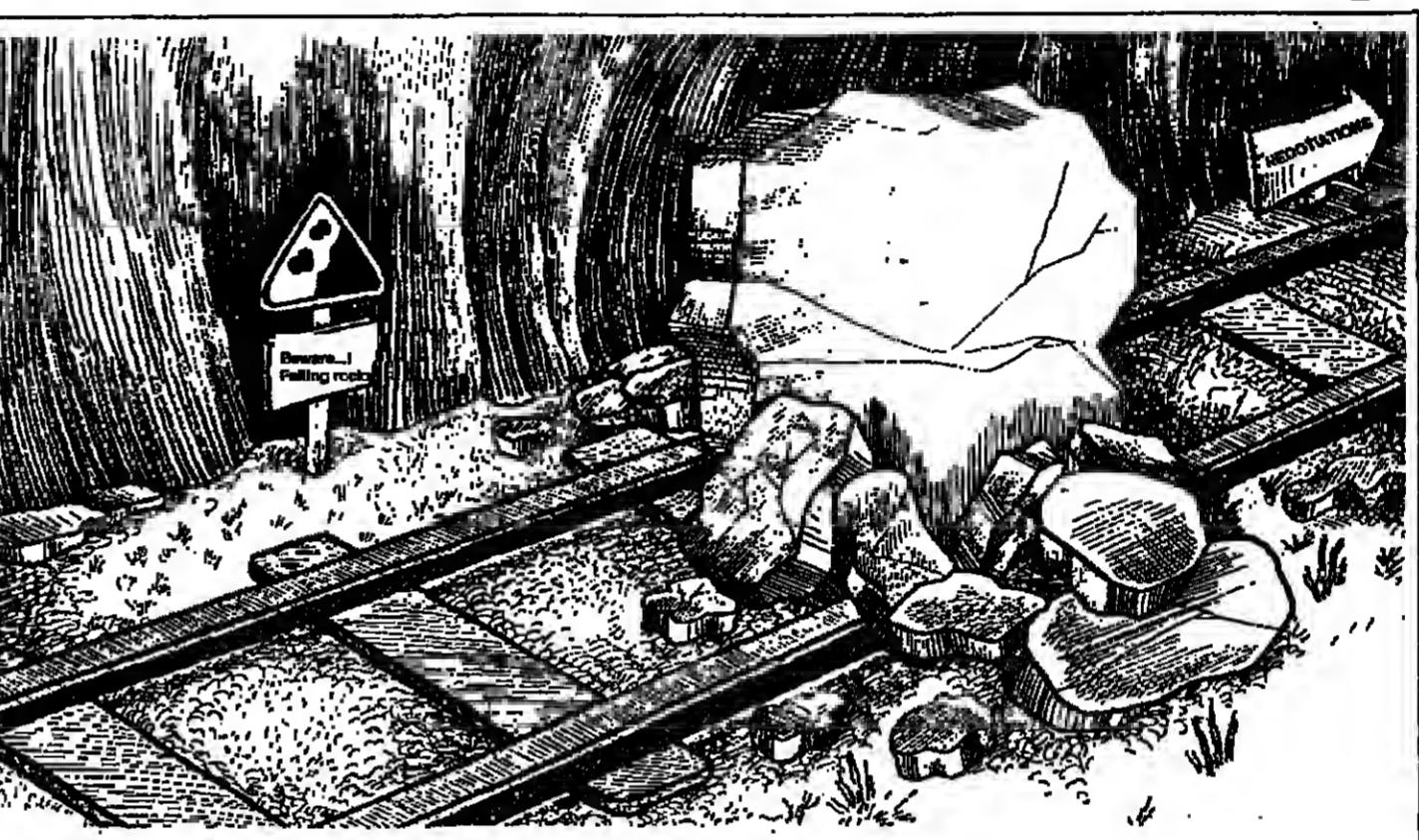
It would do us no harm to recall several historical decisions and missed opportunities.

In 1936-37, a struggle took place over the partition of Palestine, and David Ben-Gurion's approach, favouring the principle of partition, was endorsed at the time. In retrospect, it turned into a historical decision toward the establishment of the state.

In November 1936, Ben-Gurion, then chairman of the Zionist Executive of the Jewish Agency, gave evidence before the British Royal (Peel) Commission sent to Palestine to investigate the reasons for the Arab riots that had broken out the previous April and to recommend a solution.

The rise of the Nazis in Germany and of antisemitism in Eastern Europe gave Ben-Gurion's words a sense of approaching danger and urgency. Chaim Weizmann, the president of the Zionist Organisation, was willing to reconcile himself to a decision which would have enabled the immigration of one million Jews to Palestine over 25 years. Ben-Gurion demanded that it be done in five! He felt very strongly that time was running out.

"In the next five years," he declared, "the fate of our generation, if not our fate for generations, will be decided." Replying to a question at the session of the



M.KAHIL

Royal Commission, he said: "Four million Jews can live in Palestine." Lord Peel, the chairman, asked: "How many Arabs live in the country?" Ben-Gurion responded: "When there will be four million Jews here, there will be about two million Arabs."

Lord Peel: "A total population of six million?" Ben-Gurion: "Yes."

It is astonishing how clearly Mr. Ben-Gurion foresaw the situation: in 1948, the Provisional

Council decided, by a large majority, to establish the state of Israel. A delay or a vote against Mr. Ben-Gurion would have changed the course of history.

Since then, many critical crossroads have been missed by Israel: the prospect of reaching an interim peace settlement in 1971-72, the Jericho Plan in 1974, the London Document of 1987, etc. No one can tell what would have happened "if..."

However, what did happen calls for some soul-searching.

Shall we be a democratic Jewish state which provides all its citizens with equal rights — or a bi-national state practising apartheid?

A focus of identification for world Jewry, or no longer the centre of the Jewish people? Shall we invest our talent, resources and efforts in constructing a growing economy and progressive society, or shall we erode in endless intifadas and as perpetual

military conflict, wasting our meager resources on new settlements and increasing the size of old ones in the midst of a Palestinian population in the administered areas?

With its own hands, the government has created a nightmare. It is de facto annexing two million Arabs to Israel, and investing in this absurd project some New Israeli Shekel (NIS) 3.5 billion a year. In addition, the cost of the

## Baker, Washington's top negotiator, has tough time in China

By Andrew Quinn  
Reuter

PEKING — Secretary of State James Baker, Washington's ablest negotiator, has discovered the hard way that Peking's tough-minded strategists give away little — and then only at the last minute.

Mr. Baker's grim face during photo sessions before his talks vividly reflected U.S. concern over human rights, arms sales and trade policies.

But with unflappable aplomb, the Chinese stonewalled him.

Session after session of talks produced nothing but glares and nervous diplomats. There were no smiles and no handshakes for the cameras, no promises for the press.

China produced its last-minute concessions only after Mr. Baker delayed his Sunday departure for hours. The Americans greeted them as substantial and real progress but diplomats described them as minimal.

The promises were won only after a dicey game of give-and-take that sent Mr. Baker and his advisers into a last-ditch huddle to figure out the political cost.

The Chinese did not even address human rights, the top item on Mr. Baker's agenda, until he warned them their obstinacy was jeopardising the future of Sino-American links, according to U.S. officials with his party.

Diplomats said on Monday Peking's tactics had achieved their goal: Keep talking, concede little.

The Chinese played this very well ... they want something in return. If they get it, then the

whole process will simply be an exercise in mutual benefit," one Western diplomat said.

The importance both sides placed on the visit by Mr. Baker, the highest U.S. official to come to China since its harsh 1989 crackdown on dissent, was evident from the outset.

After touching down at Peking's airport on Friday, his motorcade whisked him straight to Foreign Minister Qian

### NEWS ANALYSIS

Qichen, the first stop in a string of meetings with Chinese leaders that included Premier Li Peng, President Yang Shangkun and Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin.

The trip, seen as a chance to repair the rupture caused by the 1989 Tiananmen killings, centred on Washington's complaints about China's human rights record.

"I'm not sure they understood it," an official travelling with Mr. Baker said of China's response to his message.

During his talks on Saturday with Premier Li Peng, Mr. Baker seemed unwilling even to look at the man widely regarded as an architect of the 1989 crackdown.

Mr. Li, smiling grimly, lectured the stony-faced Mr. Baker on China's 5,000 years of history, a classic expression of China's perceived cultural superiority.

President Yang told Mr. Baker outstanding American complaints could be shelved. Mr. Jiang, put



James Baker

Finally, some five hours after he was due to leave, Mr. Baker appeared at a news conference to announce that China had given him agreements signalling "clear gains in the fields of (arms) proliferation and trade."

Diplomats said the Chinese, by holding their concessions until the last minute, had forced the Americans to present them in a positive light.

"The Chinese gave the Americans something to point to," one diplomat said. "That means they have managed to keep the process of dialogue going and stopped relations from getting any worse."

"But I don't think anything very basic was changed by the visit."

## Yeltsin's decree wins him control but no guarantee of change

By Deborah Seward  
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russian President Boris Yeltsin's latest decrees wresting control over the economy from central Soviet leaders could become paper tigers unless they bring quick improvements.

The decrees show a take-charge approach to the crumbling Soviet economy just ahead of crucial talks beginning Monday with the group of seven major industrialised democracies closely monitoring economic reform.

By assuming responsibility for the Soviet Union's economic crisis, Mr. Yeltsin faces a challenge at least as great as the assault on democracy he successfully resisted during the hardline coup attempted in August.

Western creditors will want guarantees they can collect the Soviet debt, regardless of how it is divided among the republics and assurances that Mr. Yeltsin's tendency to rule by decree is not endangering Russia's fledgling democracy.

The use of decrees to set policy shows a disregard for the democratic principle of endowing the legislature with the power to make laws and the president with the authority to execute them. Mr. Yeltsin maintains strong presidential rule is needed to restore order.

In pre-revolutionary Russia, the czars and later liberal reformers often used decrees to order deep changes to a people with no democratic traditions.

Neither Mr. Yeltsin nor the Russian legislature seized opportunities after the fall of the Soviet Union to adopt a new constitution

or set up a supreme court, which could have helped decide some of the complex issues they now face.

The Russian legislature early last week warned Mr. Yeltsin of the danger of executive rule. It failed to endorse his decree declaring emergency rule in the breakaway Muslim enclave of Chechen-Ingushetia.

The overwhelming vote calling for a political solution and Mr. Yeltsin's order to send Soviet troops to the enclave tarnished his post-coup image as a democratic reformer.

Other separatist movements and ethnic conflicts brewing inside Russia could capsize Yeltsin's efforts to create a market economy.

The 10 economic decrees released late Saturday claim control over the Soviet money supply and trade in oil, gold, diamonds and foreign currency and included a populist but likely inflationary move to raise workers' salaries.

The decrees would cancel the official foreign currency exchange rates set by the Soviet government starting Jan. 1 on Russian territory and allow the republic's central bank to set new rates.

That appears to be a significant step towards allowing the currency to be traded freely on international markets, a condition the West has placed on large-scale foreign investment.

The West will want an explanation of the move to suspend new export licenses for oil, natural gas and coal until Jan. 1 and give Mr. Yeltsin's government control over export quotas from the republic, which produces about 90 per cent of the Soviet Union's oil.

## Media coverage of the Gulf crisis; a survey of correspondents

By Mohammad Najib Al Sarayrah and Mohammad Ibrahim Ayish

FOR many years, the flow of international news has been a salient issue on the agenda of global political and academic debates. Among other things, Third World spokesmen charged in the 1970s and early 1980s that Western media coverage of their nations was generally negative and crisis-oriented. One research question that the crisis-centered coverage of developing countries by Western media produces a skewed quantity of news rather than a constant flow because those media report by means of "spot" coverage, with the volume of news spurring higher when a crisis draws attention. An American journalist has articulated Western correspondents' penchant for crisis news when he asked: "Why the hell should anyone but a specialist, be interested in Congo, when there is not a crisis there?"

Although crisis reporting by Western media had drawn a good amount of research in the past two decades, most of the studies conducted employed content analysis as a data-gathering method. This type of analysis may be useful in throwing light on the nature of news output. However, it is incapable of showing why that output appeared as it did. Explicating determinants of crisis coverage demands an investigation into the context of such coverage using other data-gathering techniques, one of which is survey research. In this case, data obtained from foreign correspondents reporting a crisis appears to be quite helpful in acquainting us with the perceptions and attitudes of those correspondents and with the problems and issues arising in the context of crisis coverage.

Taking international media correspondents' reporting of the Gulf crisis (From Aug. 2, 1990 to Jan. 16, 1991) as a case study, this article seeks to throw light on correspondents' perceptions of the crisis and the problems facing them. The study also attempts to identify some of the organisational aspects of crisis reporting as perceived by correspondents. During the past two decades, Western correspondents operating in the Middle East have long complained of such problems as lack of access to and cooperation from Arab officials and information ministries, and getting into the country and obtaining interviews.

The general research question addressed by this article relates to the issues and problems arising in the context of foreign correspondents' coverage of the Gulf crisis from Amman, Jordan. In light of the debates associated with such coverage, the article investigates professional, political and organisational factors that may have impinged on reporting the Gulf crisis from Amman, Jordan before evolving into a full-fledged war.

A random sample (of 40) foreign correspondents who were reporting from Jordan on the Gulf crisis before it broke out into a full-fledged war was surveyed by the authors to investigate their perceptions, problems and work practices. According to Jordanian Ministry of Information sources, over 500 foreign correspondents arrived in Jordan from Aug. 2, 1990 to Jan. 16, 1991, to cover the

crisis. Data gathered from the sample indicates that Jordan was selected as a base of operation by those correspondents because the country is geographically close to Iraq; public opinion was generally pro-Iraq while official government stands reflected neutrality; Jordan was negatively affected by the influx of hundreds of thousands of Gulf evacuees into its territories and media facilities were conveniently available to correspondents in the capital city of Amman.

A 27-item questionnaire was placed in mail boxes of correspondents residing in three major hotels in Amman. Respondents were asked to return completed questionnaires to hotel receptionists. The questionnaire sought to gather data from correspondents on age, nationality, experience, place of operation, media affiliation, occupational status, education, exposure to the Middle East foreign language, frequency of filing reports, adequacy of available facilities, reliance on local reporters, sources used, reason(s) for choosing Amman, degree of cooperation from Jordanian officials, perceptions of coverage, problems faced by correspondents and possible changes in perspective.

Data showed that 65 per cent of respondents were males while 35 per cent were females. In terms of age, the study indicated that 40 per cent of respondents were in their 30s, 27.5 per cent in their 20s and 20 per cent in their 40s. Data on age suggest a generally young sample of correspondents who perhaps had little experience in crisis reporting during the 1970s and 1980s.

As for nationality, the study showed that 27.5 per cent of correspondents were American; 12.5 per cent British; 10 per cent French; 7.5 per cent Greek and 7.5 per cent Italian. Non-Jordanian Arab correspondents constituted 15 per cent of the sample. The dominance of American-European correspondents in the sample may be explained by two factors: the global media dominance of Western Europe and the United States and the direct involvement of these nations in the anti-Iraq coalition. One more reason that may be cited relates to the centrality of crisis news to Western media as they report international affairs. Another reason concerns the huge capabilities of Western media institutions which have the necessary resources to dispatch correspondents around the world.

Concerning media affiliation the study indicated that 60 per cent respondents worked for television, 25 per cent for newspapers and 7.5 per cent for radio. The high percentage of TV correspondents reflects the rising importance of television as a medium of international communication, especially with the introduction of satellites to global television broadcasting. Daily television reports dispatched live by CNN's Baghdad correspondent Peter Arnett and the subsequent rise of this network in U.S. television ratings seem to underscore the growing centrality of television in crisis coverage.

The results of the study indicated that 65 per cent of correspondents were originally based in Western countries before being dispatched to Jordan to cover the Gulf crisis. Those who were originally stationed in the Middle East

before the outbreak of the crisis constituted 17.5 per cent while 7.5 per cent were based in Southeast Asia. The main implication of these findings is that the majority of correspondents covering the Gulf crisis did not seem to be familiar with the region's issues and problems. This means that their reporting of a complex crisis of the magnitude of that in the Gulf would tend to be less balanced and enlightened, especially when their mother countries are central parties in the anti-Iraq alliance.

Data showed that 87.5 per cent of respondents worked on a full-time basis while 12.5 per cent operated as stringers. The high percentage of full-time correspondents in the sample points out to importance covering the Gulf crisis for Western media.

As for news experience in general, it was found that 32.5 per cent of correspondents had a 6 to 10 year experience while the experiences of 22.5 per cent ranged from 1 to 5 years; 17.5 per cent from 11 to 15 years. Ten per cent of the sample had a general news experience of 25 years and over. On the other hand, the foreign news experience of 40 per cent of the sample ranged from 6 to 10 years and of 17.5 per cent from 11 to 15 years. The fact that a large percentage of correspondents had a foreign news experience of 10 years or less indicate their limited familiarity with international issues in general and those of the Middle East in particular.

"Disagreement over potential distortion did not rule out possibilities of modifications and changes in news reports dispatched by correspondents. Indeed, 80 per cent of respondents admitted those changes do take place in the gate keeping chain while 12.5 per cent seem to think those editorial changes, despite their frequent occurrence, should in no way imply a distortion."

In terms of education, the study found that 70 per cent of correspondents had a bachelor degree; 20 per cent had a masters degree and 5 per cent were Ph.D.s. As for area of study, the results showed 25 per cent of the sample majored in journalism, 20 per cent in social/human sciences and 22.5 per cent of literature/linguistics. Data on education indicate a good percentage of respondents were well-educated, especially in areas of communication and social sciences. However, the question of whether those subjects of academic training were related to foreign affairs has yet to be investigated.

The finding that 77.5 per cent of correspondents had either lived or worked in the Middle East may suggest a previous exposure to Middle East culture and politics, but it should in no way suggest acquisition of insights into the region's problems.

Data on foreign languages mastered by the sample showed that English was spoken as a foreign language by 28.7 per cent of respondents, French by 30.3 per cent and Arabic by 6.06 per cent.

As for the critical issue(s)

only. The high percentage of English and French language users among non-native speakers in the sample reflects the growing expansion of both languages as media of communication. On the other hand, the low percentage of users of Arabic as a foreign language among correspondents suggests a serious shortcoming in reporting news from foreign countries. This finding may be well understood by noting that the majority of correspondents were originally based in Western countries where they did not have Arabic in their newswork.

The results of the study also indicated that 77.5 per cent of respondents used to file their news reports on the Gulf crisis on a daily basis, while 22.5 per cent had no answer. As for means of dispatch, the study showed that 27.4 per cent of correspondents used telephone, 40.17 per cent used satellites, 9.80 used facsimile and 15.68 per cent used personal computers. Data on correspondents' use of modern communications technologies seem to explain the high frequency of report dispatch; something that turned the Gulf crisis coverage into an instantaneous reporting operation.

In reporting the Gulf crisis, 45 per cent of the sample said they sought help from local reporters while 32.5 per cent said they did not. This moderate reliance on native newsmen to collect and report the news may be explained by foreign correspondents' non-mastery of Arabic. However, the finding that over half the sample did not resort to local reporters for help may be understood by noting that a large number of Jordanians do speak English as a second language.

As for sources used by foreign correspondents in covering the Gulf crisis from Jordan, the study showed that 37.5 per cent of correspondents relied on private sources and 25 per cent used both. For foreign correspondents, the relatively low usage of official sources vis-a-vis private sources may be explained by limited access accorded to them by government officials. Private sources were more conveniently accessed. This assumption, however, seems to go counter to the results of the study in which correspondents gave high rating to the cooperation on the part of Jordanian officials. For example, on a scale form 1-10, 32.5 per cent of the sample gave a full mark to levels of such cooperation. This may indicate high degree of official cooperation with correspondents already given access to those offices.

With respect to their views on alleged distorted coverage of the crisis, 55 per cent of correspondents disagreed with such allegations, while 22.5 per cent agreed. The high percentage of correspondents denying charges of distortion may be explained by the fact that an opposite position would suggest a self-condemnation on the part of correspondents. Disagreement over potential distortion did not rule out possibilities of modifications and changes in news reports dispatched by correspondents. Indeed 80 per cent of respondents admitted those changes do take place in the gate keeping chain while 12.5 per cent seem to think those editorial changes, despite their frequent occurrence, should in no way imply a distortion.

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underlying the Gulf crisis 7.5 per cent of respondents thought it was the Palestinian problem; 7.5 per cent thought it was the occupation of Kuwait, another 7.5 per cent believed it was the presence of U.S.-led forces in the Gulf, and 10 per cent believed it was oil. Lack of consensus on the issue(s) underlying the Gulf crisis seems to reflect varying perspectives held by correspondents on the problem. This variation will certainly have a bearing on the type of coverage correspondents offer to their audiences around the world. A news report based on the view that the whole conflict was about Palestine would

certainly be different from another reportedly premised on the view that it was all about oil.

The results of study indicated that 40 per cent of correspondents thought the newsworthy components of the crisis were political military and humanitarian. Those who thought political aspects only were the most important constituted 35 per cent; those who thought of military aspects accounted for 10 per cent and those who thought of humanitarian aspects made up 15 per cent. The high percentage of correspondents giving priority to political/military news over humanitarian news seem to be

compatible with the findings of previous research in which Western media were shown to be highly attracted to news rife with political and military drama as that in the Gulf.

As for the persistence of correspondents' views on the conflict since its outbreak on Aug. 2, 1990, 47.5 per cent thought their perspectives underwent certain changes while 37.5 per cent said no changes took place. This finding system seems to underscore the significance of time — series studies of newsmen (over time) as one shot studies, may not always reflect enduring attitudes and values.

Mohammad Al Sarayrah and Mohammad Ayish teach journalism at Yarmouk teach journalism. They contributed this article to the Jordan Times.



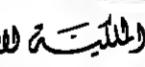
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## Navratilova and Graf reach quarters at Slims Championships

**YORK (R)** — Fourth seed Martina Navratilova survived evening night jitters to win a tight serve and volley duel against Lori McNeil at the season-ending Virginia Slims Championships Monday.

Navratilova joined second seed Steffi Graf in the quarterfinals after the German Wimbledon champion made short work of Spaniard Conchita Martinez to open the \$3 million, 16-player tournament.

Both Navratilova and Graf extended perfect records against their respective first-round opponents.

Navratilova raised her record to 9-0 against fellow-American McNeil with her 6-4, 7-5 win, while Graf made it five-for-five against the ninth-ranked Martinez with a relatively easy 6-0, 6-3 win.

Despite winning this tournament five times, Navratilova, who missed last year due to knee surgery, admitted to a severe case of butterflies on her return to Madison Square Garden.

"I was a little nervous and very tentative. I'm glad to get it over with," said the nine-time Wimbledon champion who turned 35 last month.

### SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Backley's record to be reinstated

**STUTTGART, Germany (R)** — Steve Backley's 1990 Javelin throw of 89.58 metres will be reinstated as the official world record from next Jan. 1, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) decided at its council meeting. Backley, Czechoslovak Jan Zelezny and Finn Seppo Räty have between them improved the mark four times since July last year but they used a rough-tailed implement now outlawed by the IAAF. Only marks set with javelins with smooth surfaces will be recognised for world record purposes, the IAAF ruled following complaints from throwers that their event was being devalued by technological developments. IAAF technical committee proposals required all javelins to be smooth and uniform throughout. The surfaces of the shafts had to be devoid of any dimples, grooves, ridges, holes or roughness. Räty boosted the world mark to 96.96 in Finland in June. Briton Backley, who reached 89.58 with a conventional, smooth-edged javelin, said: "It's the best possible boost for next year's Olympics after the disappointments of 1991."

#### Torino appeal against home ban

**BERNE (R)** — Italy's Torino have appealed against a ban on using their own stadium for the home leg of their UEFA Cup quarterfinal tie against AEK Athens next month, officials said Tuesday. A European Football Union (UEFA) official said the appeals board would sit in Geneva Friday and Saturday. UEFA's Control and Disciplinary Committee imposed the stadium ban last week after Torino fans fought with police and destroyed seating during the away leg of their second-round tie against Espanyol of Portugal on Nov. 6. The committee ruled that Torino must play the Dec. 11 tie against AEK at least 300 kilometres from Turin. The official said UEFA had also received an appeal from the Spanish Football Association against a fine of 75,000 Swiss francs (\$50,000) for crowd disturbances during the European Championship qualifier between Spain and France in Seville on Oct. 12.

#### Johnston moves to Everton

**EVERTON, England (AP)** — Striker Mo Johnston Monday completed a £1.5-million (\$2.5 million) transfer from Rangers of the Scottish premier division of Everton of the English first division. Johnston, 28, said he was looking forward to returning to the English first division, where he played for Watford in the early 1980s. "I am delighted to be joining such a big club and starting a new career on Merseyside," he said. "I have not been in the Rangers first-team for the past month and have been looking closely at my situation. When Everton came in I just had to sign. It's a case of one door closing and another opening." Johnston was the first big-name Catholic player for Rangers, traditionally an all-Protestant team. "I spent 2½ years with Rangers and I would like to stress that it was a great time," he said. "There is no animosity and I wish them all the best."

#### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH  
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#### TOO FAST FOR COMFORT

Both vulnerable South deals.

**NORTH**  
♦ 5 6 4 3  
▼ J 9 5 2  
○ A  
♦ A 9 3

**WEST**  
4 J 9 7 5  
♦ Void  
▼ Void  
Q J 10 9 6 3 Q K 8 7 5 4 2

**EAST**  
4 J 9 7 5  
♦ Void  
▼ Void  
Q J 10 9 6 3 Q K 8 7 5 4 2

**SOUTH**  
A K Q 10  
Q K 10 8 8 3  
○ Void  
♦ 8 5

The bidding:

South West North East

2 ♠ Pass 3 ♦ Pass

4 NT Pass 5 ♦ Pass

7 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♦

Among the local aficionados Vot-

mai Tinikov, the Russian emigre,

had earned the sobriquet of The

Mad Russian mainly because he

had impressed everyone by the

speed of his bidding and play, if not

by its accuracy. No one could sit at his table even for long to wait before

getting a chance to cut in for the

next rubber. This is an example of

both aspects of his game.

Tinikov picked up the South

hand and a routine demand bid and

positive response quickly got North-

South to what rated to be a laydown

grand slam. It didn't phase Tin-

ikov a whit that he had two possi-

"Last week I played Lori in the semifinals, now I meet her in the first round so can see the strength of the tournament."

Martinez never appeared comfortable or happy on the indoor carpet as she sleep-walked through the opening set against Graf, who served extremely well.

The Spaniard put up more of a tussle in the second set. She broke Graf in the opening game and fought tenaciously to hold the advantage in the 18-point fourth game, fighting off three break points and holding for 3-1 after six deuces.

But that game proved something of a wake-up call for Graf, who picked up her game a notch and reeled off the next five games to close out the match.

"In the beginning of the second set there were some very, very close and tough points," said Graf, the 1987 and 1989 champion. "I think she got a little bit tired after that."

After the lopsided opening match, McNeil and Navratilova brought the crowd to life with their aggressive net play.

Many points came down to whoever was able to fight their way to the net first for a put-away volley.

"Hell if you can beat the number one player in the world, you

can beat anybody," she said. "I don't have too many years left and I want to make the most of what I have."

Graf, who split with Pavel Slozil last week, said Monday she would not decide on a replacement for her long-time coach until after the season-ending Virginia Slims Championships.

Serving for the set, she quickly went down 0-40 to the 19th-ranked McNeil.

But Navratilova, ranked fourth in the world, bore down and won five consecutive points to hold serve.

"I just said to myself 'take it one point at a time.' I was lucky to get out of the set," she said.

The second set began with four service breaks as each player returned serve and passed effectively.

Navratilova seized the final advantage with a break for 6-5 when she placed a shot at the feet of the charging McNeil, who picked it up, but hit a backhand long.

The five-time champion made the most of her first chance to end the struggle by holding serve at 15 for victory.

Graf said it was an amicable split from Slozil, the Czechoslovak former professional who coached her through her record 186 weeks atop the world rankings.

"I have not said anything yet. I have been playing at home for a few days with him and I played with two other guys," she said. "I just want to concentrate on my tournament right now and I will take care of that after my holiday."

"I think you need sometimes to see different faces, to hear different ideas."

Graf suggested that he was just one of the candidates for the demanding job of pushing the former world number one.

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"I hope they do well. I think they will. Jennifer has a lot of talent for the future and I think it is a great challenge for him."



Steffi Graf

"I think it had more to do with being five years together. I think that is really a long time and sometimes it is a bit tiring for both of us," said Graf, who won her third Wimbledon title this year.

"I think you need sometimes to see different faces, to hear different ideas."

Graf suggested that he was just one of the candidates for the demanding job of pushing the former world number one.

"I hope they do well. I think they will. Jennifer has a lot of talent for the future and I think it is a great challenge for him."

## Germany cannot afford to lose in Belgium

**BRUSSELS (R)** — World champions Germany simply cannot afford to lose their European Soccer Championship finals rest on the result of the Group 2 qualifier between Bulgaria and Romania Wednesday.

The Germans, second in group five, must pick up three points from their final two matches — against Belgium and at home to Luxembourg on Dec. 17 — to pull level with leaders Wales and go through to next year's finals on goal difference.

The rejuvenated Belgian side are already out of the running for the finals in Sweden but German coach Berti Vogts still considers them tricky opponents.

"Belgium have nothing to win or lose. It will be their easiest match for years. That will make them very dangerous," he said.

But Vogts' players are confident they will beat Belgium.

"Of course, qualifying for the European Championship is at stake and the pressure is high.

But we've learnt from the past that the Germans perform best in these circumstances," midfielder Lothar Matthaeus said.

Defender Stefan Reuter has recovered from a knee operation three weeks ago and will play, allowing Vogts to field the team which defeated Wales 4-1 in Nuremberg last month.

Belgium will be missing Franky Van Der Elst, the nation's Player of the Year last season, who is suffering from a viral infection.

He will be replaced by uncapped 19-year-old Johan Walem of Anderlecht.

Portugal prepares for World Cup

Portugal, aware that their

chances of reaching the European Soccer Championship finals rest on the result of the Group 2 qualifier between Bulgaria and Romania Wednesday.

Romania need to beat the Bulgarians in the final group match by any margin except 1-0, a scoreline which would put Scotland into the finals.

Scotland lead with 11 points, one ahead of Switzerland. Romania are third with nine points and so could still win the group on goal difference.

Romanian Manager Mircea Radulescu said that, despite

being without five key players because of injury, he was hoping for a resounding win in Sofia.

Radulescu will be missing defenders Michael Klein and Dan Petrescu, midfielder Daniel Timofte and strikers Gavril Balint and Iosif Rotaru.

Key striker Marius Lacatus is also injured but Radulescu said he hoped to have him fit by Wednesday.

Bulgaria's manager Dimitar Penev said he would be able to field his strongest team, with the exception of defender Trifon Ivanov.

"I am aware that we are practically out of the European Championship but there is dignity and honour to defend," said deputy coach Antonio Oliveira. "Our sights are already set on the 1994 World Cup."

Victory in the Group 6 match would put Portugal level on points with leaders the Netherlands. But the Dutch, who meet Greece in their final group match on Dec. 4, boast a far superior goals difference record.

The Greeks would need to beat both Portugal and the Netherlands handsomely to have a hope of qualifying for next year's finals in Sweden.

Greece have never lost to Portugal in Lisbon and team manager Antonio Georgiadis said on arrival: "I hope the tradition continues."

Portugal will have to do without Atletico Madrid winger Paulo Futre, who has an ankle injury. He has been replaced by Oceano Cruz, who plays for another Spanish club, Real Sociedad.

Bulgaria hold key to Romania's Scotland's chances

Romania's and Scotland's

#### Peanuts



#### Andy Capp



#### Mutt'n'Jeff



## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 20, 1991

By Thomas S. Pieron, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** With so many good aspects in effect today you can afford to think of the other fellow and avoid any preoccupation with minor interest that really won't advance your cause of action to any degree.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You are able to rightly cement bonds of accord between you and others now and to profit through associations which come into being or are now continued.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Make a point to go directly to that expert who has had experience in matters of present concern to you and get suggestions for your success.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Be as much as possible with good friends today as you can and let them see you are willing to go along with them and reap the benefits thereof.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Get out in the world of action early and take your rightful place with those who have any kind of communication with you that is above reproach.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Take time now to put some additional sparkle in your life so that newcomers will be attracted to you and willing to go along with your ideas.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) This is your time to be sure that you do attend to whatever obligations facing you in a pleasant spirit such as insurance, taxes, social security.

## THE BETTER HALF

جordan times

**Financial Markets** Jordan Times  
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	TOKYO CLOSE
Sterling Pound	1.7894	1.7900
Deutsche Mark	1.6115	1.6095
Swiss Franc	1.4503	1.4290
French Franc	5.5050	5.5055**
Japanese Yen	129.64	129.44
European Currency Unit	1.2660	1.2668**

PSD Per SGD  
European Opening & Close in m.m. 1991

Currency	1 MTHS	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.75	4.93	4.93	5.06
Sterling Pound	10.57	10.51	10.25	10.25
Deutsche Mark	9.00	9.31	9.31	9.31
Swiss Franc	7.43	7.67	7.75	7.68
French Franc	9.56	9.56	9.56	9.56
Japanese Yen	6.37	6.75	6.00	5.75
European Currency Unit	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.83

Interest Rates Date: 19.11.91

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Interest Rates Date: 19.11.91

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6800	0.6820
Sterling Pound	1.0159	1.0220
Deutsche Mark	0.4217	0.4236
Swiss Franc	0.4752	0.4776
French Franc	0.1234	0.1240
Japanese Yen	0.5245	0.5271
Dutch Guilder	0.5720	0.5761
Swedish Krona	0.1154	0.1160
Italian Lira	0.0556	0.0561
Belgian Franc	0.00053	0.00063

Interest Rates Date: 19.11.91

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7740	1.7850
Lebanese Lira	0.0770	0.0775
Saudi Riyal	0.18100	0.1860
Kuwaiti Dinar	--	--
Qatari Riyal	0.1842	0.1850
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2170
Omani Riyal	1.7400	1.7490
YAE Dirham	0.1642	0.1850
Greek Drachma	0.3615	0.3815
Cypriot Pound	1.4770	1.4970

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## Fighting thwarts Vukovar evacuation

BELGRADE (R) — Fighting between Croatian National Guards and the Yugoslav army in Vukovar thwarted the evacuation of casualties, old people and children from the devastated town's hospital Tuesday, relief workers said.

An army convoy had been due to take a group including 400 wounded, 110 children and 100 pensioners to safety. Croatian Health Minister Andrija Hebrang said it had already set out.

But the plan was halted as fighting broke out around the hospital in an area where the backbone of National Guard fighters is making a last stand against the army.

Almost all Vukovar is under army control after the Croatian government ordered its surrender following an 86-day siege.

Ed Koestal, spokesman for the European Community (EC) observer mission in Zagreb, said: "More preparations will be made today and the evacuation from the hospital should take place tomorrow."

Croatian radio reported ceasefire violations in Western Croatia and coastal areas Tuesday. It blamed the army for attacks around Gospic, Skradin, Karlovac, Zadar and Dubrovnik.

Vukovar's last defenders, ignoring orders to give up, have

dug themselves into the central fortified Mitrice area near the banks of the Danube River.

A Reuter correspondent heard an army major tell an EC observer Monday that they would be wiped out.

Fighting continued as Belgrade television accused Croat fighters who decided to escape of massacring Serb inhabitants of the town as they left. It showed pictures of fresh corpses in the streets, including one of a man with his eyes gouged out.

The army launched its assault Monday as about 5,000 trapped civilians fled Vukovar, a border town which has been a focal point of nearly four months of fighting in Croatia.

Several thousand people have been killed since the republic declared independence in June, sparking a rebellion by its Serb minority which Serbia and the Serb-led federal army supported.

On Monday, only 150 members of the National Guard and police obeyed an order from their commander to stop fighting in the face of overwhelming army forces. The rest headed for Mitrice.

But a guard who gave himself up said it was impossible to tell how many had decided to fight on.

"Croatian forces in Vukovar have not surrendered," Hebrang said in Zagreb.

Army Captain Radojica Szcic said: "This is it. Those who wanted to leave are out and those who didn't — we're free to clear them out."

Many civilian refugees left the town with tears in their eyes and few belongings, their homes destroyed.

"Damn Vukovar, damn my whole life," one woman wailed. "I have nothing left but the bag in my hand."

Croatian guardsmen who surrendered were detained for barter against the release of Serbian prisoners of war in Croatia.

Civilians were taken to dispersed camps under the supervision of International Red Cross and EC monitors for checkups. The army said they would then be free to go where they pleased.

Croatian spokesman said the level of military activity in the breakaway republic began to rise again Monday despite a ceasefire which came into force Saturday.

The army blamed Croatian forces for provoking most violations.

A collapse of the ceasefire would end the prospect currently being assessed by United Nations envoy Cyrus Vance, of U.N.

peacekeeping forces being deployed in Croatia.

Meanwhile, the president of the Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina said Monday there was a danger it could be dragged into the Serb-Croat conflict because some of its citizens had already joined in the fighting.

"We are doing everything possible to avoid involvement in the war which would be totally destructive to our republic," President Alija Izetbegovic told a news conference in Athens during a one-day visit.

"There is a possibility of Bosnian-Herzegovina becoming involved (in the war) and ... a number of people are illegally armed," he said.

The vast central republic has borders with both Serbia and Croatia, principal antagonists in the fighting, and is seen as especially volatile because of its explosive ethnic mix.

Its population of about four million is about 40 per cent Muslim, 40 per cent Serbian and 20 per cent Croatian. Mr. Izetbegovic said that although his republic refused to send troops to the Yugoslav army, a number of citizens were secretly and illegally armed and fighting as volunteers on opposing sides in the war to stand in Germany.

"There will be contact (with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev)," Mr. Kohl, who is on first-name terms with the Kremlin chief, told reporters in Potsdam.

Mr. Kohl's spokesman confirmed the chancellor would personally intervene because of the failure so far of German attempts to have Mr. Honecker returned.

These have founded because of a feud between Mr. Gorbachev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin over who has authority over the exiled Honecker.

The Russian government decided Friday to expel Mr. Honecker, but Germany's mass-circulation Bild newspaper said in a report from Moscow Monday that Mr. Honecker had officially asked the Soviet government for political asylum.

Mr. Yeltsin's Justice Minister Nikolai Fyodorov told reporters in Bonn Monday Mr. Honecker could be returned soon.

"If no (unforeseen) circumstances crop up, it's a question of days or weeks," he said.

Mr. Kohl, speaking in Potsdam three days before a planned visit by Mr. Yeltsin to Germany, said he would make it clear to both the Soviet and Russian leaderships "that it is up to a state based on the rule of law to pursue such a legal process."

The controversy over Mr. Honecker complicated because there is no extradition treaty between Bonn and Moscow.

Mr. Honecker, 72, who was spirited out of united Germany in March to Moscow aboard a Soviet military plane, faces manslaughter charges at home.

These arise from his shoot-to-kill orders to guards manning the Berlin Wall and east German border during the cold war. He has lived in exile in or near Moscow since early this year.

In Berlin, one of Mr. Honecker's attorneys said the former east German leader's life would be endangered by imprisonment.

"He could not come without transport (back to Germany), but I fear the worst if he is jailed," lawyer Friedrich Wolff said. "When I think that he might have to sit in prison, I don't know if he can survive."

Mr. Wolff said two cancer operations had left Mr. Honecker in fragile health and he also suffered from high blood pressure.

German Justice Minister Klaus Kinkel, who appeared with Mr. Fyodorov at a news conference, said: "We hope soon to have the chance to put Honecker on trial."

**U.S. House approves \$291b compromise defence bill**

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. House of Representatives approved a \$291 billion defence bill that keeps the controversial B-2 Stealth bomber programme alive and increased spending on the Star Wars missile defence plan.

Approval of the bill, a compromise between separate measures passed by the House and U.S. Senate, came by a 239-82 vote after several members took potshots at a now-dead proposal to authorise up to \$1 billion in aid for the Soviet Union.

The plan, drafted by House Armed Services Committee Chairman Les Aspin and his Senate counterpart, Senator Sam Nunn, was withdrawn after it had caused a furore when it was added to the bill without formal approval by the two chambers.

After hearing renewed criticism of the proposal, Mr. Aspin, a Wisconsin Democrat, defended it as an "insurance policy" to try to ensure that reformers remained in office in the Soviet Union, that they would not otherwise think of.

Some political commentators have charged the Republicans have themselves to blame for Mr. Duke.

**White House says Duke should get out of politics**

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House has said the loss by a landslide of former Ku Klux Klan member David Duke in Louisiana's election for governor showed that Mr. Duke has no place in politics and should get out.

"We don't think he should be elected or should be involved in politics," spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters.

Democrat Edwin Edwards easily defeated Mr. Duke, a self-described Republican, in Saturday's election in Louisiana to gain a fourth term to the

remained in safe custody and that the United States could safely continue to cut its nuclear arsenals.

Mr. Aspin called the plan "defensible by another means."

The bill would keep the B-2 programme barely alive by postponing a decision on whether to halt it at 15 aircraft or build more in the future. Critics have attacked the \$850 million per plane cost of the programme.

Meanwhile, U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney warned Monday that further cuts in active military personnel, now at a 40-year low, could put the country at risk.

"Every time we have taken the force down so far and fast we have created such a weakend U.S. that we have encouraged our adversaries around the world to take risks and chances that they would not otherwise think of," Mr. Cheney told the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association in Boca Raton, Florida.

He said his immediate concern are North Korea, which is de-

veloping nuclear weapons but refuses international inspection, and the question of what will happen to the 25,000 to 30,000 nuclear weapons that the Soviet Union had under control until this past summer's failed coup.

Also of concern is the Middle East, China, North Africa, Panama and South East Asia, Mr. Cheney said.

While it was important to get the economy moving, Mr. Cheney warned it would be ill advised to do it at the expense of a full and effective military force.

"Let us proceed with caution," Mr. Cheney said, noting that he already has ordered the closure of 100 bases and installations worldwide, reduced the civilian workforce by 85,000 and will cut \$40,000 active duty military personnel by mid-1990.

He warned that moving any further or faster in the name of the "peace dividend" could be dangerous.

"The (Pentagon) decisions being made are not about jobs

back bone or the overall health of the economy even though they are important," Mr. Cheney said.

"The decisions being made are for the next time we go to war. And be absolutely certain that there will come a time when an American president will be called upon to send young Americans into harm's way."

Mr. Cheney plans to discuss further cuts in the 39,000 American troops in South Korea despite concern over North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons programme, South Korean officials said Tuesday.

"The proposed second phase of reduction in American troops in Korea will be discussed in depth," a Defence Ministry official in Seoul said.

"The United States had told us it wanted to cut its presence to about 30,000 by 1995. But the plan may be delayed or scrapped if the North continues to ignore international calls to stop developing nuclear weapons," he said.

"The (Pentagon) decisions being made are not about jobs

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### German jet crashes off Dutch coast

AMSTERDAM (R) — Two German Air Force pilots were feared dead after their Tornado fighter jet crashed off the Dutch coast, a spokesman for the Dutch Air Force said Tuesday. Rescue ships and helicopters were still searching for the missing pilots Tuesday morning after parts of the wreckage of the Tornado were spotted near Vlieland — an island off the northwest coast of the Netherlands. "We are still searching, but we fear that the pilots must be dead by now," the spokesman said. The German Tornado was taking part in a routine exercise in Dutch airspace when it crashed Monday. The cause of the crash is not known. On Oct. 31, two German Navy Tornados collided over the sea between Denmark and Norway. All four crew members ejected and were picked up by Danish Navy helicopters. But one of the pilots later died of exposure.

### Senior Bonn aide accused of spying

KARLSRUHE, Germany (R) — A senior Interior Ministry official has been arrested on suspicion of spying for more than a decade for the former Communist east German government, the federal prosecutor said Tuesday. His office said in a statement that the man, identified only as Matthias R., 40, was suspected of passing on confidential documents that he saw in the course of his work at the federal administration offices in Cologne. He was arrested Sunday and was being held in custody for questioning. The statement said. It said the man, who had the codename "beck," was paid up to 1,000 marks (\$625) a month for his espionage activities and was highly decorated by the east German Ministry for State Security (MFS).

### Deadly chemical weapon leaks in U.S.

NEWPORT, Indiana (R) — A deadly chemical weapon that can kill on contact with skin leaked from a storage tank at an ammunition plant here, but U.S. army officials said Monday that the amount was too tiny to pose any threat. "It was probably a 50th of a drop," said Bob Whistine, a spokesman for the Newport army ammunition plant. He said there was no danger to personnel or the surrounding area. The chemical agent involved is called VX, Mr. Whistine said. One drop properly placed can kill in a matter of minutes, he said. The valve involved will be removed in the next two weeks for tests, he said. The substance has been stored at the plant since 1968.

### Fragile Salvador peace broken

SAN SALVADOR (R) — El Salvador's fragile new peace was shattered almost as soon as it began when four soldiers and two leftist rebels died in weekend clashes, the armed forces said. The army said troops and rebels clashed in four of the country's 14 provinces at the weekend, but there were no other reports of casualties. A military spokesman said the six died in fighting between government troops and guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front near the village of Suchitoto, 45 kilometres north of San Salvador. He did not say if the clashes took place on Saturday or Sunday. The rebels had announced a unilateral ceasefire from midnight Friday to foster progress in United Nations-sponsored peace talks aimed at ending 12 years of civil war.

### Bonner condemns Soviet rights abuses

SEATTLE (R) — Soviet Human Rights campaigner Yelena Bonner has condemned what she said were human rights abuses in Azerbaijan and Ossetia. The retired Soviet physician was speaking at a news conference Monday in Seattle, where she was to present a lecture on human rights in memory of her Nobel Peace Prize-winning husband, Andrei Sakharov, on Tuesday evening. She said the four-year persecution of Armenians by Azerbaijanis in the Nagorno-Karabakh region was forcing a deportation that "sometimes is even more cruel than under (Soviet dictator Joseph) Stalin's time." Azerbaijani attackers have sold bodies to families of their Armenian victims for as much as 20,000 roubles — or about five years wages — so the families may bury them, Ms. Bonner said. Ms. Bonner called on Western leaders to be tough on Soviet human rights issues, adding: "The West has easily betrayed its principles."

### Woerner: No alternative to NATO

BERLIN (R) — The U.S.-led NATO alliance will be the sole effective guarantor of peace for the foreseeable future but welcomes a stronger complementary European role, NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner has said. In a speech in Berlin, Mr. Woerner said the post-cold war era had vindicated the realm of security management to the Western European Union (WEU), a revived defence bloc, and the European Community (EC). "(But) none of these institutions can replace NATO... neither the WEU nor the pending EC political union will be able to provide the operative defence potential that is impossible without American help," he said. "The areas of air support, strategic transport, logistics and intelligence, cooperation with the United States is indispensable," Mr. Woerner told the German Atlantic Society. There is concern in NATO, especially in the United States and Britain, that initiatives by France and Germany to revive the long-dormant WEU and create a European army could weaken the North Atlantic alliance.

### Nicaraguan groups sign peace pact

JINOTEGA, Nicaragua (R) — A peace pact between rival Nicaraguan guerrilla groups made up of ex-contra rebels and former Sandinista soldiers has raised the chances of finally bringing quiet to the country's battlefields. Leaders of the so-called "re-contras" met heads of a force of former Sandinista soldiers, known as the "re-compas", in an abandoned army base in northern Nicaragua Monday. With observers from the Organisation of American States, the government and the army looking on, the two groups signed a non-aggression pact and agreed to work together to pressure President Violeta Chamorro to carry out promises of land, housing and farm credits.

### 10-year-old Salvadorean wins U.N. prize

SAN SALVADOR (R) — A 10-year-old Salvadorean girl whose drawing of children playing and doves of peace won a United Nations prize flew to New York to give the U.N. secretary-general a gift of beans and bananas. Lidia Rodriguez, who lives in the village of Las Vueltas, 81 kilometres north of San Salvador in the war-torn province of Chalatenango, won a drawing contest on the theme of peace organised by the U.N. human rights observatory in El Salvador, known as ONUSAL. Lidia and her father, Francisco, took gifts of "ayote" (pumpkin) sweets, bananas, beans and two T-shirts bearing the ONUSAL logo, a U.N. spokesman said.

"The proposed second phase of reduction in American troops in Korea will be discussed in depth," a Defence Ministry official in Seoul said.

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